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INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: FREE TRADE; SAO PAULO

Uruguay's dissatisfaction

Editorial in center-right O Estado de S. Paulo (9/13) says: "In a document sent to congressmen last week, defending the accord with the United States, the Uruguayan government argued that...while the Mercosul skids, Uruguay needs to seek access to other markets in order to grow and to increase its exports. There are reasons for the complaint.... The two main partners of the bloc, Brazil and Argentina, ignore Uruguay's problems and create even more [difficulties].... If the accord intended by [Tabar] Vazquez is a free-trade one...Uruguay's presence in the Mercosul as a full-member will be compromised.... Diplomats [from Brazil and Argentina]...say a restricted accord is acceptable.... The problem is convincing Washington to accept such an accord.... Another problem is the deadline to finish this accord.... The accord intended by Tabar Vazquez exposes the fragility of the Mercosul and the disdain with which the two main partners have been treating the others."  
McMullen